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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2004

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Mu'taz **Hyassat** (Jordan)

V. Information technology

Introduction and overview

1. At its 460th meeting, on 8 September 2004, the Committee on Conferences considered paragraphs 52-55 of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/59/159 and Add.1), concerning information technology.

Discussion

2. Note was taken of the progress that had been achieved thus far across duty stations in integrating information technology into management and documentation processing systems and of the global approach to sharing standards, good practices and technological achievements among conference services at all duty stations.

3. Concern was expressed, however, at the lack of sufficient informational material in Arabic on the United Nations web site and on the optical disk system (ODS). It was pointed out that although the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management was responsible for the processing of official documents that were posted on ODS, the management of ODS and the United Nations web site was not within the purview of the Department. The view was expressed, however, that the issue of the availability of United Nations documents in all the official languages was indeed within the competence of the Committee, which should be prepared to discuss the matter.

4. Satisfaction was expressed that the Secretariat shared the views of Member States about the use of information technology and the need to take into account the availability of technology for all the official languages. It was emphasized that all duty stations should be given adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates and welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to provide the available conference-servicing management tools and best practices to all duty stations.

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